



1998-99 CATS ASSESSMENT

Open-Response Item Scoring Worksheet

Grade 8—Arts & Humanities

The **academic expectation** addressed by the open-response item “The Old Guitarist” is

1.13 Students make sense of ideas and communicate with the visual arts.

2.23 Students analyze their own and others’ artistic products and performances using accepted standards.

The **core content** assessed by this item includes

Visual Arts: Responding

Describe, analyze, and/or interpret works of art using visual art terminology

Visual Arts: Skills and Knowledge

Art Elements

Value, color, space, form, texture

The Old Guitarist

Refer to the Arts and Humanities color Art Reference Sheet to help you answer the question.



Pablo Picasso (Spanish 1881-1973). *The Old Guitarist*, 1903. Oil on panel, 122.9 x 82.6 cm, Helen Birch Bartlett Memorial Collection, 1926.253. Photograph © 1998, The Art Institute of Chicago. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

One of the purposes of art is to provide a way for artists to express emotions such as joy, sadness, or anger.

- Look at the painting *The Old Guitarist* by Pablo Picasso which is shown above and on the color Art Reference Sheet. Identify the emotion that you think the artist is expressing in this painting.
- Describe **three** ways that the artist expresses this emotion in the painting. Discuss **three** elements of art (such as color, value, space, form, or texture) in your answer.



SCORING GUIDE

Grade 8 Arts & Humanities

Score	Description
4	Student identifies an emotion that he or she thinks the artist is expressing in the painting. Student clearly describes 3 ways that the artist expresses this emotion, including appropriate references to 3 elements of art.
3	Student identifies an emotion that he or she thinks the artist is expressing in the painting. Student generally describes 2 or 3 ways that the artist expresses this emotion, including appropriate references to 2 or 3 elements of art.
2	<p>Student identifies an emotion that he or she thinks the artist is expressing in the painting. Student provides a limited description of 2 or 3 ways that the artist expresses this emotion, including an appropriate reference to at least 1 element of art.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Student identifies an emotion that he or she thinks the artist is expressing in the painting. Student clearly describes 1 way that the artist expresses this emotion, including an appropriate reference to 1 element of art.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Student identifies an emotion. Student describes 2 or 3 ways that the artist expresses this emotion in the painting but does not make direct reference to any of the elements of art (e.g., student talks about the guitarist's facial expression and bony body without referring to any elements of art).</p>
1	Student's response is minimal (e.g., student identifies an emotion and minimally describes 1 or 2 ways the guitarist expresses this emotion).
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Examples:

- colors are cool and neutral; monochromatic color group
- form of body is bent over and distorted
- long lines are used to draw bony-looking fingers, arms, and legs



ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

Grade 8 Arts & Humanities

Sample 4-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

The painting *The Old Guitarist*, by Pablo Picasso, expresses the sad emotions of a lonely old man. Picasso expressed this emotion through the use of many artistic elements, including color, space, and texture.

The monochromatic color scheme gives this painting a sad, cold feeling. The entire painting, except for the guitar, is in different shades of blue. Blue is a very cool color, and the painting seems harsh and unmerciful.

The guitarist is slumped over, and even so, there is not much open space surrounding him. He seems cramped and uncomfortable. The use of space is also important in expressing emotions.

The old man's rough, bony features make him look weak and unhealthy. These features add more texture and emotion to the picture.

The elements of art can help express emotions in a picture. In this painting, Picasso used color, space, and texture.

← Student identifies an emotion and clearly identifies an element of art used by the artist to express that emotion (i.e., the use of monochromatic blue to express sadness).

← Student identifies a second emotion and clearly identifies an element of art used by the artist to express that emotion (i.e., the use of space to express discomfort).

← Student identifies a third emotion and clearly identifies an element of art used by the artist to express that emotion (i.e., the use of texture to express weakness and sickness).

Overall, the student demonstrates a strong ability to interpret works of art using appropriate visual art terminology. The student's response is clear and detailed.



ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

Grade 8 Arts & Humanities

Sample 4-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

One of the purposes of art is to provide a way for artists to express emotions such as, say sadness, or anger. I've been shown the painting "The Old Guitarist," by Pablo Picasso.

Part a. of the question tells me to identify the emotion that I think the artist is expressing in that painting. Part b. tells me to describe three ways that the artist expresses that emotion in the painting using three of the elements of art (such a color, value, space, form, or texture) in my answer.

a.) In my opinion, Picasso is expressing grief. (I know that the painting is in the Helen Birch Bartlett Memorial Collection.)

b.) Grief is expressed in this painting by color, texture, and form. All the colors in the picture are "cold colors." There's mostly blue, but there's also the brown guitar and the blackish background. Black symbolizes death as well. The texture of the old man's legs are smooth, and his hair is thin and matted. His fingers are very bony, and his face looks pale and sick. All of these qualities make him look sad like his guitar is the only thing in the world he has left. Thirdly is the form. The form of this man with his head bent down and his eyes closed and his long fingers barely touching the strings makes the whole picture look dreary. Great painting!

← Student identifies an emotion that the artist is expressing (i.e., grief).

← Student identifies an element of art used by the artist to express grief (i.e., "cold colors").

← Student identifies a second element of art used by the artist used to express grief (i.e., the textures of his hair and skin).

← Student identifies a third element of art used by the artist to express grief (i.e., the man's form—"head bent down").

Overall, the student demonstrates a strong ability to interpret works of art using appropriate visual art terminology. The student's response is clear and detailed.



ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

Grade 8 Arts & Humanities

Sample 3-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

In the painting, "The Old Guitarist," by Pablo Picasso, I see very strong emotions. The man is old with white hair, and a wrinkled body, sitting cross legged leaning on the wall. I see him as a lonely, and sad man. It's almost like his guitar which he is clinging to, is his only friend in the world. His clothes are torn, which also symbolizes that no one is there to care for him, but the look on his face is what makes you feel the great sadness he must be feeling.

Several elements of art also help express this point. The colors are mostly dark blues, except for his old brown guitar, and even his yellowish skin, is shaded with the depression he feels. Space is also a key factor for the figure, he takes up 2/3 of the space, and you know what the main objective is almost immediately. Last but not least the focal point is but the clearest of it all, his guitar, his only friend. It is the obvious focal point because it is the only slightly bright color in the entire painting.

This painting by Pablo Picasso is very beautiful, and really makes you feel for "The Old Guitarist."

← Student identifies emotions that the artist is expressing (i.e., lonely and sad).

← Student identifies an element of art used by the artist to express sadness and loneliness (i.e., use of colors, especially blues and yellows).

← Student identifies a second element of art used by the artist to express sadness and loneliness (i.e., the use of confined space).

Overall, the student demonstrates a general ability to interpret works of art using appropriate visual art terminology.



ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

Grade 8 Arts & Humanities

Sample 2-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

a.) The emotion that the artist is expressing is sadness and depression. The old man might have lost a love one. He is playing guitar for him/or her.

I think that these emotions best describes him. The Spanish weren't great much back then. Picasso is sad somehow in his mind, so he drew an old man with a guitar. This may or probably might describe him when he gets old.

b.) He draws an old man playing guitar. There is silence around the old man. It's a cold dark day this man is poor, needs some money. Picasso uses dark color such as blue, black. The space around the guy is big, but not to big or small. The guy is giving his strength to play the guitar. The value of the color is rich. Picasso used blue and black and mixed them together.

← Student identifies emotions that the artist is expressing (i.e., sadness and depression).

← Student identifies an element of art used by the artist to express sadness and depression (i.e., use of colors such as blue and black).

← Student identifies a second element of art used by the artist, but the reference to the emotions of sadness and depression is vague (i.e., space is "not to big or small").

Overall, the student demonstrates a limited ability to interpret works of art using appropriate visual art terminology.

Sample 1-Point Response of Student Work

Student Response

A. What the artist is expressing sadness and loneliness.

B. Three ways the artist expresses this emotion in the painting is the colors are dark...

← Student identifies emotions that the artist is expressing (i.e., sadness and loneliness).

← Student only identifies one element of art used by the artist to express sadness and loneliness (i.e., use of dark colors).

Overall, the student demonstrates a minimal ability to interpret works of art using appropriate visual art terminology.



INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Grade 8 Arts & Humanities

The open-response item **“The Old Guitarist”** assesses students’ ability to analyze a work of art in terms of what the art communicates using visual terminology of the elements of art. The instructional strategies below present ideas to help students explore and master this concept.

Discuss with students how paintings can express emotions through a) the way subject matter is portrayed and b) the way the artist uses the elements of art.

Provide examples for students of different kinds of paintings that portray different kinds of emotions and the use of different elements of art.

Provide opportunities for students to analyze these paintings and share their analysis in small groups. Ask each group to share with the entire class their consensus on the emotion expressed and how the artist used the elements of art to achieve this emotion.

Select a subject (e.g., portrait, figure, animal). Ask students to identify an emotion that could be portrayed by the subject. Ask students to describe how they would portray that emotion using the elements of art.

Provide an opportunity for students to select a media of their choice (e.g., pastel, tempera, watercolor) and using the selected subject portray an emotion using the elements of art.

Display student work in preparation for class critique. Ask students to use visual terminology of the elements of art to identify the emotions the art work communicates and to describe how the elements of art were used to communicate the emotion.